

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

Project No. 17-057

DISTRICT OFFICE
641 S. 8TH STREET
WEST DUNDEE, ILLINOIS 60118
847.214.8245
SENATOR@KARENMCCONNAUGHAY.COM



SPRINGFIELD OFFICE
103D CAPITOL BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217.782.1977

KAREN MCCONNAUGHAY
STATE SENATOR • 33RD DISTRICT

December 5, 2017

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: *Valley Ambulatory Surgery Center, St. Charles*
Project 17-057

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to express my support for Valley Ambulatory Surgery Center, L.P.'s ("VASC") Certificate of Need application (Project 17-05) to relocate to a new building with an improved clinical environment for patients and staff.

Since 1987, VASC has provided outpatient surgical procedures in St. Charles from the same building. The existing facility is in need of many repairs, has serious design deficiencies, and is no longer tenable as an ambulatory surgery center. For instance, the building is not handicap-accessible, and many doors fail to reach ADA requirements. In addition, the sterile processing work space is not separated into clean and dirty instrument areas, and there is no enclosed loading dock to protect the integrity of medical products. These building design flaws have failed to comply with current codes and best practices and have resulted in citations to the surgery center.

Furthermore, the building has recurring electrical and plumbing problems, and it has not been cabled for modern IT needs. The fire sprinkler lines leak, periodically requiring closure of the facility. Recurring false alarms are the result of a malfunctioning fire alarm system.

To ensure that patient care is not interrupted for the massive and expensive required repairs, VASC plans to relocate to a new building with less total square footage and a more efficient design.

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Under Illinois Certificate of Need laws, this relocation is treated as a discontinuation of the existing facility and establishment of a new facility, though it will not add any new services or surgical capacity to the service area. Thus, VASC does not anticipate opposition to the project from the existing area health care providers.

For thirty years, VASC has served the residents of the St. Charles community, and I support its efforts to offer an efficient facility that is consistent with current codes and best practices and I encourage you to support this project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen McConnaughay".

Senator Karen McConnaughay
33rd District